

The Work of the People

The Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October is one of those transitional months. The leaves begin to turn blazing colors and the wet weather returns. The temperatures vary wildly sometimes within the same day and we can expect our bodies and spirits to be stressed somewhat especially in this time of pandemic. October is also the month of the Holy Rosary and this reminds us that prayer is our basic connection with God; it is the way that we can reach back to our God who constantly reaches out to us in love.

For this Sunday's First Reading, we move ahead in Isaiah to chapter 25. The entirety of this chapter describes a day when God will provide victory for God's people. Specifically, the verses chosen for today paint the picture of the mountain, Zion, on which the victory will take place. It is on this mountain that God will also nourish his people with a splendid feast. The people's tears of defeat at the hands of their enemies, Assyria included, will no longer need to be shed. Salvation is the victory of God's people.

In the Second Reading, we hear that Paul knows how to support himself and his work of spreading the Gospel. If he needed to labor, he did. In this passage, he expresses to us that he has the ability to live in both scarcity and abundance. Yet, the Philippians sent him a gift of money, for which he is thankful. Paul accepted the gift, although he believed that God provides for his every need. This is the truth of faith he teaches the Philippians. We trust God provides enough for us in Christ Jesus, oftentimes working through others who respond to our needs as the Philippians did to Paul's.

In the Gospel today, Jesus continues to speak to the chief priests and elders in another parable. This time the parable centers on whom God invites to the banquet of the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew's account, the king sends his servants into the streets to invite people to the feast, since those who were invited did not come, showing their own unworthiness. The servants bring back a variety of people, but the King notes how some are not wearing the proper attire for a wedding banquet. They are invited, but not chosen for they have not turned to God and put on the wedding garment.

The reflection for this week is from Sr. Verna Holyhead, SGS who was an Australian Sister of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St. Benedict.

Participation in the wedding feast of the Son means more than just showing up. Just as in the parable of the Weeds and Wheat (Matt 13:24-30) when the sorting out was left until the final harvest at the end of time, so now it is the king who comes into the assembly of guests and finds there someone "not wearing a wedding robe." The allegorical nature of the parable is obvious, for taken

literally how could any of the street people in a devastated city fit themselves out with wedding apparel? "Clothing" is often a metaphor for good works and faithful discipleship. The baptized "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 13:14) and "have clothed themselves with Christ" (Gal 3:27); the Colossians are encouraged to clothe themselves with virtues, and above all "with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col 3:12-14). This is the answer to "What shall I wear?" to the wedding feast of the kingdom—which in the long run of salvation history is the only wedding that really matters. Those who wish to share the Son's wedding feast must always be clothed and ready in this way of love.

Like Matthew's community, as a church we are also servants sent out to invite others to the wedding feast, to proclaim that God's door is always open and welcoming. Our mission is not to judge, but to carry the message to our streets and workplaces, and suffer unconcern, ridicule, and sometimes even persecution for the sake of the King and his Son.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gal. 4:22-24, 26-27, 31; 5:1/Lk. 11:29-32
 Tuesday: Gal. 5:1-6/Lk. 11:37-41
 Wednesday: Gal. 5:18-25/Lk. 11:42-46
 Thursday: Eph. 1:1-10/Lk. 11:47-54
 Friday: Eph. 1:11-14/Lk. 12:1-7
 Saturday: Eph. 1:15-23/Lk. 12:8-12
 Sunday: Is. 45:1, 4-6/1 Thes. 1:1-5b/Mt. 22:15-21

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel speaks about "unworthy wedding guests." What makes a "worthy" guest? Presence and presents are not enough. The greatest gift we can give is support to the couple as they voyage through life together because marriage naturally contains within it the field of disappointment. Think of the weddings you have attended. Have you been a "worthy guest?"

*"Father,
 I turn every uncertainty in my life
 over to you.
 Teach me how to live
 in faith and confidence in you."*

WORSHIP

Monday, October 12
 8:00 am + John E. Auer
 Tuesday, October 13
 8:00 am + Margaret Styborski (Kathleen Lipkovich)
 Wednesday, October 14
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, October 15
 8:00 am + For our Country (Joyce Lyons)
 Friday, October 16
 8:00 am + Mary Mukina
 (Joan Rembielak & Phyllis Wronko)
 Saturday, October 17
 4:30 pm + Henry, Frank & Frances Bialbocki
 (Wanda Pilarczyk)
 Sunday, October 18
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 John Henry Harrison
 (M/M Gerard Adamczyk)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 13
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Thursday, October 15
 6:00 pm - St. Anthony of Padua and
 St. Bernadette Mission Finance Council mtgs.
 At St. Anthony of Padua
 6:45 pm - St. Anthony of Padua and
 St. Bernadette Mission Parish Council mtgs.
 At St. Anthony of Padua
 Saturday, October 17
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confessions
 Sunday, October 18
 Before Mass - Confessions - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confessions - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The weekend of October 18 - 19 marks this year's World Mission Sunday, our annual worldwide Eucharistic celebration of our shared call to mission. With 2020 being an extraordinarily difficult year, our awareness of this call is needed more than ever.

During the month of October, Pope Francis invites all baptized Christians to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and pilgrimage. What, then, does our Lord ask of us during this encounter? World Mission Sunday reminds us that we are all the "Church of Christ on Mission in the World," and we are all called to share the good news of the gospel with others.

I invite you to please continue to encourage all in our diocese to take this opportunity to revitalize our ardor, passion, and zeal for the faith with loving missionary hearts. One way we can respond to our missionary call is through charity, giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday

Your financial gift helps to sustain priests, religious, and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific Islands as well as parts of Latin America and Europe. Additionally, your prayer and support help them to proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor.

Thank you for your continuous commitment to mission and for your generous response to this collection, and throughout the Mission Month, as you are able. Let us join our hearts in prayer with our holy Father for this special moment for the missions. You and your families remain in my prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Bishop of Erie

**CHILD PROTECTION AND
 CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS**

Bullying Prevention Month: Relational bullying is unwarranted, persistent, unwelcome behavior in the form of criticism, isolation, or fabricated allegations that can damage relationships. Examples include social exclusion ("You can't be with us"), spreading rumors ("Did you hear...?"), and withholding friendship ("I won't be your friend if you..."). Though relational bullying can often seem ambiguous to outside observers and often garners less attention than physical bullying or verbal bullying, it should not be discounted simply as normal, adolescent behavior. In fact, several recent studies suggest relational bullying is more strongly related to emotional distress and teen depression than any other form of bullying. To see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments, visit <https://www.eriecnd.org/childprotection/>

STEWARDSHIP - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

Offertory	\$555.00
Maintenance	180.00
Candles	27.00
World Mission	30.00
TOTAL	\$792.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$5,565 Paid: \$5,415

STEWARDSHIP - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Offertory	\$2,018.00
Maintenance	268.00
Catholic Education	25.00
Peter's Pence	40.00
Candles	18.00
CSA	320.00
TOTAL	\$2,689.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$26,496 Paid: \$24,886

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
